

Message Text

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61

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07

H-02 INR-07 IO-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SP-02

OC-05 PRS-01 SS-15 USIE-00 USSS-00 SY-05 FAA-00

WRD-01 SCCT-01 VO-03 SCA-01 INSE-00 /079 W

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R 302156Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2598

UNCLAS BOGOTA 12425

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, CO

SUBJECT: HIJACKING ATTEMPT FOILED

1. COLOMBIA'S FIRST HIJACKING ATTEMPT SINCE JULY 1974 WAS FRUSTRATED MONDAY, DECEMBER 22. DETAILS FOLLOW PER FAA CHECKLIST.

2. DECEMBER 22. SAM AIRLINES (SOCIEDAD AERONAUTICA DE MEDELLIN) NONSCHEDULED BEECHCRAFT D-80, REGISTERED IN COLOMBIA HK 846. FLIGHT PLAN BARRANCABERMEJA-MEDELLIN-BARRANCABERMEJA, ROUTE DURING HIJACKING BARRANCABERMEJA-MEDELLIN. DEPARTURE APPROX 1610 HOURS, ARRIVAL 1715. NINE PASSENGERS, TWO CREW, AND NO AMERICANS NO OTHERS. HIJACKER BOARDED NORMALY AT BARRANCA, WAS LAST TO BOARD.

NO PASSENGER SCREENING. HIJACKING BEGAN IMMEDIATELY AFTER TAKEOFF. HIJACKER ENTERED COCKPIT WITH KNIFE AND (FAKE) REVOLVER. SPOKE SPANISH. NO ONE THREATENED, INJURED, OR TAKEN HOSTAGE. NO INJURIES TO PASSENGERS NOR CREW, HIJACKER WAS NERVOUS. HE PERMITTED AIRCRAFT TO CONTINUE TO MEDELLIN AND LAND, BUT DID NOT PERMIT COMMUNICATIONS WITH TOWER TILL THREE MINUTES BEFORE LANDING. UPON LANDING, HIJACKER DEMANDED THREE MILLION UNCLASSIFIED

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PESOS (US\$90.000) AND SAFE CONDUCT TO AN UNSPECIFIED

LOCATION. DEMANDS MADE TO TOWER. NO REASONS GIVEN
FOR HIJACKING. NO HAZARDS TO AIR SAFETY EXCEPT
INTERFERENCE WITH COMMUNICATIONS. WHILE AIRCRAFT WAS
ON THE GROUND IN MEDELLIN, NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUED FOR
ONE HOUR. THEN SOME PASSENGERS OPENED AIRCRAFT DOOR,
WHILE HIJACKER DISTRACTED, AND JUMPED TO SAFETY.
SECURITY AGENTS ENTERED AIRCRAFT THROUGH BAGGAGE
COMPARTMENT, WOUNDED AND OVERPOWERED HIJACKER AT 1815
HOURS. NO DAMAGE TO AIRCRAFT, BAGGAGE, OR EQUIPMENT,
BUT PLANE UNABLE TO RETURN TO BARRANCA BECAUSE OF
DARKNESS. HIJACKER TAKEN TO HOSPITAL. IDENTIFIED AS
ROBERTO DEL CRISTO ROBLES RODELO, BORN NOVEMBER 3,
1946 IN MAGANGUE, STATE OF BOLIVAR, COLOMBIA. EMPLOYED
AS TELEPHONE TECHNICIAN BY BOGOTA TELEPHONE COMPANY, NO
PREVIOUS CRIMINAL RECORD.
VAKY

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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06 JUL 2006

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